

sunsets. The residents there take tremendous pride in their city, which has just the right combination of parks, shops and cultural offerings.

St. Pete Beach is a barrier island with a permanent population of just over 10,000. It was incorporated in 1957 with the consolidation of the towns of Pass-a-Grille, Don Cesar, Belle Vista and St. Petersburg Beach.

Today it is a popular tourist destination when its population doubles during the winter months. Visitors flock to St. Pete Beach to enjoy its 38 acres of public parks and 39 acres of public beaches.

This is also a fiercely patriotic city as flags fly on homes throughout the community. The people there have also led a seven-city effort to collect items to send our troops serving overseas. They want our soldiers, sailors, marines, airmen, and coastguardsmen to know they are loved and appreciated.

Madam Speaker, as the city prepares for its festivities this weekend, let me commend Mayor Ward Friscolowski, Vice Mayor Michael Finnerty, Commissioners Linda Cheney, Ed Ruttenecutter and Harry Metz, and all the city's employees for their dedication to governing and managing one of our Nation's finest hometowns and vacation destinations. St. Pete Beach reminds us of all that is right in Florida and why it is such a great place to live, to work and to play.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2007

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote No. 1059 on Wednesday, November 7, 2007.

However, had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on H. Res. 801, providing for consideration of the bill, H.R. 3688, to implement the United States-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF OREGON, OHIO

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2007

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a community in my District, that of Oregon, Ohio. Formally incorporated following elections in November of 1957, Oregon celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2007.

Oregon, located on the Western Bay of Lake Erie, was once part of Northwest Ohio's Great Black Swamp. Cultivated for its trees and rich earth, its first government—Oregon Township—was formed in 1838. It is bounded by the City of Toledo to the West, Lake Erie to the North, Wood County to the South, and Jerusalem Township to the East.

Through the 1800s and 1900s, water and rail systems developed in the region. Northwest Ohio is a cornerstone of water, rail, and surface transportation, and Oregon is at its hub. As a result of its location, its two largest employers built and remain in Oregon: Sun Oil

and BP refineries. Oregon continued to grow as an industrial center of the region, with several chemical plants and energy generating facilities. Industrialization brought residential and commercial growth, and Oregon thrives.

Throughout its earlier years of growth, its Western neighbor Toledo tried to annex Oregon Township. Annexation attempts failed, but so, too, did early attempts to incorporate Oregon on its own. In 1957 after another annexation attempt, the residents of Oregon voted overwhelmingly to incorporate as the City of Oregon.

Oregon's own residents coined the slogan "City of Opportunity" in 1958 shortly after adopting the City Charter. Indeed Oregon lives up to its slogan. The City is home to Maumee Bay State Park—a jewel on our Western Lake Erie shoreline—as well as Pearson Metropark, South Shore Park, and Coontz Recreational Complex. Oregon is home to one of Ohio's largest festivals, the German American Festival, as well as its own Oregon Fest. The community is an urban mix of business, industrial, residential, recreational, educational and municipal ventures.

The City of Oregon is a vibrant community full of pride. Oregonians celebrate their past while moving toward the future. It is a City on the move. While recognizing the achievements of its first 50 years, Oregon is poised for the next 50. Onward!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PHIL HARE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2007

Mr. HARE. Madam Speaker, on November 5, 2007, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: on rollcall No. 1034, On Closing Portions of the Conference for Department of Defense Appropriations, I would have voted "aye"; on rollcall No. 1035, H.R. 513—National Heroes Credit Protection Act, I would have voted "aye"; and on rollcall No. 1036, H. Res. 744—Recognizing the contributions of Native American veterans and calling upon the President to issue a proclamation urging the people of the United States to observe a day in honor of Native American veterans, I would have voted "aye."

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3685, EMPLOYMENT NON- DISCRIMINATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 7, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Chairman, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3685, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act of 2007, introduced by my distinguished friend and colleague Representative FRANK. This important legislation extends the basic civil rights that we, as Americans, enjoy and cherish, to millions of gay, lesbian, and bisexual citizens.

This legislation also fulfills the vision and promise of our Founding Fathers who in the

"Declaration of Independence" proclaimed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." This legislation ensures that all of America's citizens inalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness are protected.

The Employment Non-Discrimination Act of 2007 will make it illegal to fire, refuse to hire, or otherwise discriminate against employees simply based on their perceived or actual sexual orientation.

I would like to thank my colleague, Mr. FRANK, for introducing this important legislation, as well as for his ongoing leadership on this issue. I would also like to thank Chairman MILLER, of the Education and Labor Committee, for bringing this legislation to the floor. Madam Speaker, today marks a historic occasion. This bill has been introduced in every Congress since 1975, and the October 18th vote in the Education and Labor Committee to report this legislation to the floor was the first vote ever taken on this legislation in the House of Representatives.

Madam Chairman, we live in a Nation that has long prided itself on predicated success on merit and hard work. In recent decades, we have fought to create a level playing field, to allow women, African Americans, and other minorities to compete in the workplace. In addition to employment legislation, we have worked to eliminate discrimination against members of minority groups. Earlier this Congress, we passed a landmark piece of hate crimes legislation, which crucially included crimes motivated by prejudice of sexual orientation.

H.R. 3685 speaks to our Nation's core values of equality and justice. There are currently no Federal laws prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. This means that in the 30 States that have not enacted State legislation to this effect, employers may make critical personnel decisions, including firing, refusing to hire, demoting, or refusing to promote employees solely based on the sexual orientation of the individual.

Madam Chairman, I strongly believe that employees should be hired or fired on the basis of their merits. Their jobs should not be threatened because of sexual orientation. Many U.S. companies have recognized that it is in the interest of U.S. companies, as well as U.S. citizens, to make employment decisions based on qualifications and job performance. Ninety percent of Fortune 500 companies now include sexual orientation in their non-discrimination policies. Many major American companies, including General Mills, Microsoft, Citibank, and Morgan Stanley, have expressed their strong support for legislation outlawing discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. In addition, a May 2007 Gallup poll clearly indicated that non-discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation is broadly supported by the American people, with 89 percent of participants stating that they support equal treatment for gays and lesbians in determining employment opportunities.

However, anti-gay discrimination persists in the workplace. According to a 2005 survey, a quarter of gay, lesbian, or bisexual individuals disagreed with a statement that most employers in their area would hire openly gay, lesbian, or bisexual people. A 2007 study found

that 16 percent of gay and lesbian individuals reported being fired from or denied a job because of their sexual orientation. A study recently released by the Journal of Applied Psychology found that 37 percent of gay and lesbian workers, across the United States, have faced discrimination based on sexual orientation. 10 percent indicated they had been physically harassed, while 22 percent had been verbally harassed. Nearly 20 percent stated that they had resigned from a job or been fired as a result of discrimination based on sexual orientation. This is precisely why I believe that this Congress must act today, to protect the fundamental rights of all American workers.

H.R. 3685, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act of 2007 (ENDA), contains many important provisions that will make important strides toward ensuring workplace equality for all Americans. This legislation prohibits employers, employment agencies, and labor unions from using the sexual orientation of an individual as the basis for employment decisions, including hiring, firing, promotion, and compensation. It extends Federal protections already guaranteed to individuals based on race, religion, sex, national origin, age, and disability to gay, lesbian, and bisexual workers.

This legislation applies to private sector employers with 15 or more employees, as well as employment agencies, labor organizations, joint labor-management committees, Congress, and federal, state, and local governments. It authorizes the same enforcement powers, procedures, and remedies provided under existing Federal employment discrimination laws such as Title VII and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Today's bill could go further. It could, and in my opinion should, also extend protections to individuals on the basis of gender identity. However, I believe that it is an important and significant step forward, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to enact fully inclusive legislation, to ensure that all Americans will ultimately be protected from workplace and employment discrimination.

I am pleased to support the amendment offered by my colleague, Mr. GEORGE MILLER. This amendment clarifies the religious exemption under ENDA, addressing concerns raised by some religious schools. It makes explicitly clear that religious organizations are given an identical exemption, under ENDA, to the one found in Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. This provision exempts religious corporations, schools, associations, and societies from religious discrimination claims. Mr. MILLER's amendment clarifies that both denominational and non-denominational religious schools qualify for exemption from ENDA. I thank my colleagues who joined me in supporting this amendment.

In addition, I would also like to express my support for the amendment offered by my colleague, Ms. BALDWIN, and my disappointment that it was not adopted. This amendment would have expanded ENDA's protections to persons discriminated against based on gender identity, defined as the gender-related identity, appearance, or mannerisms or other gender-related characteristics of an individual, with or without regard to the individual's designated sex at birth. This amendment highlighted the activism and dedication of individuals such as Phyllis Randolph Frye, a lawyer in Houston who has struggled for the rights of transgender people for decades. Further, the

language included in Representative BALDWIN's amendment addresses concerns of shared facilities, dress, and grooming standards, stating explicitly that the construction of additional facilities is not required. If this legislation is to truly achieve its goals of equal treatment for all Americans, this amendment is tantamount to that success. I therefore strongly hope that my colleagues will join me in enacting this amendment in the future.

Furthermore, I oppose the motion to recommit on the grounds that it was designed to either permanently derail or at least delay this historic legislation. In addition, the motion to recommit was regarding the definition of marriage, which is utterly separate from workplace discrimination.

Madam Chairman, this non-discrimination legislation is good for America: it benefits American citizens and American companies. Non-discrimination protects the civil rights of individuals, and it has proven good for business in some of our nation's most successful businesses. Our nation is built on the ideals of hard-work and equality, key values that are enshrined in today's legislation.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation, and in ensuring that all American workers enjoy basic employment protections.

WISHING MRS. MAGGIE KATIE
BROWN KIDD A HAPPY 103RD
BIRTHDAY

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2007

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an important milestone in the life of my constituent Mrs. Maggie Katie Brown Kidd. On December 8, 2007, Mrs. Kidd will celebrate her 103rd birthday. Many family members and friends will recognize this momentous occasion with a party in late November.

Maggie was born during President Theodore Roosevelt's second term in office and has lived to see another 16 presidents in her lifetime. Maggie Brown was the eleventh and youngest child born to William (Doc) and Lucy Callahan. She is the sister of Johnny (John S.) Brown, Rosie May Brown, Pearlie Docia Ann Brown Seals, Jasper Brown, Sally Mack Brown Finch, Evie Brown Robinson, Lena Jane Brown Jewell, Mary Lou Brown, Jewell McNabb, Nora May Brown Barrow, Climie Lee Brown Finch Haynes and James Richard (J.C.) Brown.

At a young age, Maggie united with the Mount Zion Baptist Church in Stephens, Georgia under the leadership of Reverend W.M. Combs, and was baptized by Reverend Henry Gresham. After church, she loved to play baseball on Sunday afternoons with her siblings. She remained with Mt. Zion until she moved to Atlanta, and still feels a connection to her home church.

On November 30, 1940, she married Willie (Dock) Kidd, III, son of Willie Kidd, II and Annie Lou Dalton, and brother of Bernice Kidd Wingfield, Ceola Kidd Jackson, Janie Kidd Jackson and Carrie Kidd Thomas. Mr. and Mrs. Kidd raised two children, John and Rosalyn. She is also a grandmother to four,

and a great-grandmother to three children. As her husband and all siblings have passed away, Maggie is the matriarch of her family.

Maggie still takes long vacation trips with her children and participates in family gatherings and activities outside of Georgia. Maggie is an avid quilter and enjoys a quiet afternoon stitching in her favorite chair.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life of Mrs. Maggie Katie Brown Kidd, by wishing her a very happy 103rd birthday.

LANTOS RECOGNIZES YAD
VASHEM CEREMONY HONORING
ALBANIANS WHO SAVED JEWISH
LIVES DURING THE HOLOCAUST

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I would like to call the attention of my colleagues in the Congress to a ceremony that was held on November 1 at Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes Remembrance Authority in Jerusalem. This ceremony, which recognized the unique role that Albanians played in saving every Jew who either lived in Albania or sought asylum there during World War II, marking the opening of "Besa: A Code of Honor/Albanians who Rescued Jews during the Holocaust." This exhibit by Jewish American photographer Norman Gershman documents the heroism of the rescuers and their families—65 percent of whom were Muslim—who saved more than 2,000 Jews from the ravages of the Nazi Holocaust.

Few people are aware that all Jews who lived in Albania during World War II or sought asylum there were saved from likely death during the Holocaust. Approximately 200 Jews lived in Albania during the early 1930s, while nearly 2000 Jews resided there by the end of the war—making Albania the only nation that can claim that every Jew within its borders was rescued from the Holocaust. When the Italian fascists invaded Albania in 1939, followed by the German Nazis in 1943, the Albanian population hid Jews; furthermore, Albanian government officials refused to comply with the order to provide a list of Jews living in Albania. While many Albanian citizens hid Jews on their own initiative, the rescue operation became more coordinated as the danger increased and "national liberation councils" in towns where Jews were hiding moved them from place to place—either with false passports or disguised as Albanian peasants. Albanians living in Kosova, Macedonia, and Montenegro, then part of the former Yugoslavia, were instrumental in gaining safe passage for Jews into Albania.

Not only were the Albanians isolated from centuries of institutionalized anti-Semitism, Madam Speaker, but they also have a history of religious tolerance based on the Kanun (a set of customary laws developed in the 15th century and passed down through the generations). Its underpinning moral code of besa, which is celebrated in the Yad Vashem photo exhibition, emphasizes a sacred promise to keep one's word as well as to provide hospitality and protection. As the Western concept of "foreigner" does not exist within the Kanun,